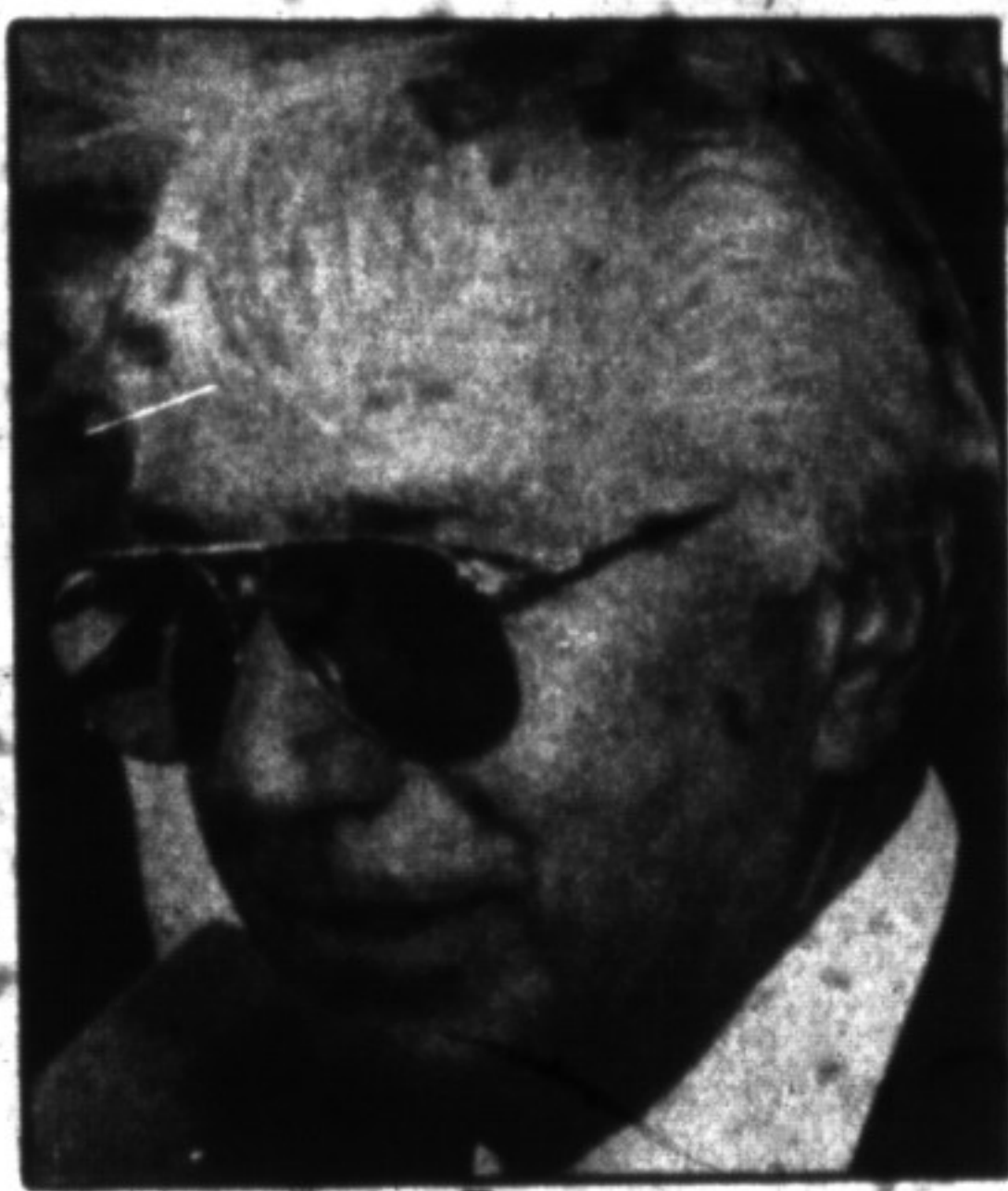


Pomeroy hearing decision in June



Peter Pomeroy

It will be June 29 before a judge will decide if Halton Regional Chair Peter Pomeroy will face trial on corruption charges.

The preliminary hearing into the matter wrapped up in a Burlington courtroom Monday morning, bringing to a close the arguments from the Crown and defence lawyers representing Mr. Pomeroy and the three others charged in the case. The hearing took eight days.

A ban on publication prohibits details from being revealed but if Judge William Sharpe drops the charges, information from the hearing may be published. If the case

proceeds to trial, details must be kept under wraps until then.

Mr. Pomeroy is charged with three counts of breach of trust, and accepting a secret commission. His wife, Halton's deputy clerk Pat Crimmins, is charged with giving a secret commission, as is Halton Hills developer Ab Tennant.

Halton Hills lawyer Herb Arnold is charged with giving a secret commission and breach of trust.

Mr. Pomeroy appeared in court Monday, though the judge had earlier granted permission for him to be absent.

Defence lawyer William MacDonald had told court April 8 that Mr. Pomeroy was under stress and that a doctor advised he not attend, however, Mr. MacDonald apologized Monday and said it had been a misunderstanding.

Mr. Pomeroy and the others were charged last spring, following a two-year joint police forces investigation.

He has continued in his role as regional chair since the charges were laid. He has held the position since 1983.

June 6-10

5,000 kids expected for environment fest at agricultural museum

More than 5,000 primary school children from across Ontario are expected to pass through the Ontario Agriculture Museum in Milton during the Children's Groundwater Festival, June 6-10.

The festival, transported from Nebraska to Ontario by Gerry Rich, director of responsible care for Cambridge's CIBA-Geigy chemical company, aims to inspire children to help preserve our groundwater.

Milton residents are included among the 30 per cent of Canadians who depend on groundwater for their daily needs.

"About 17 years ago we washed a chemical spill into the ground," said Mr. Rich.

"Three years ago we were doing some excavating for an expansion project and we found the remains of the stuff. The original incident happened before present-day environmental concerns. The festival is a payback because we want to be more positive towards the environment."

Mr. Rich said he was impressed while touring the festival in Nebraska, held just outside the capital, Lincoln. He added that in order to accommodate the high number of children, the festival will need nearly 100 volunteers per day to help man the 30 activity centres.

All schools in a 50-kilometre radius were notified of the festival and students from grades 4-6 invited.

Some of the exhibits at the festival will include; The Royal Flush, Well Drilling, Water Witching, Home Sweet Home and The Amazing Aquifer as students learn about water use in the home and in business.

For information and registration for the festival, call (905) 878-8151.

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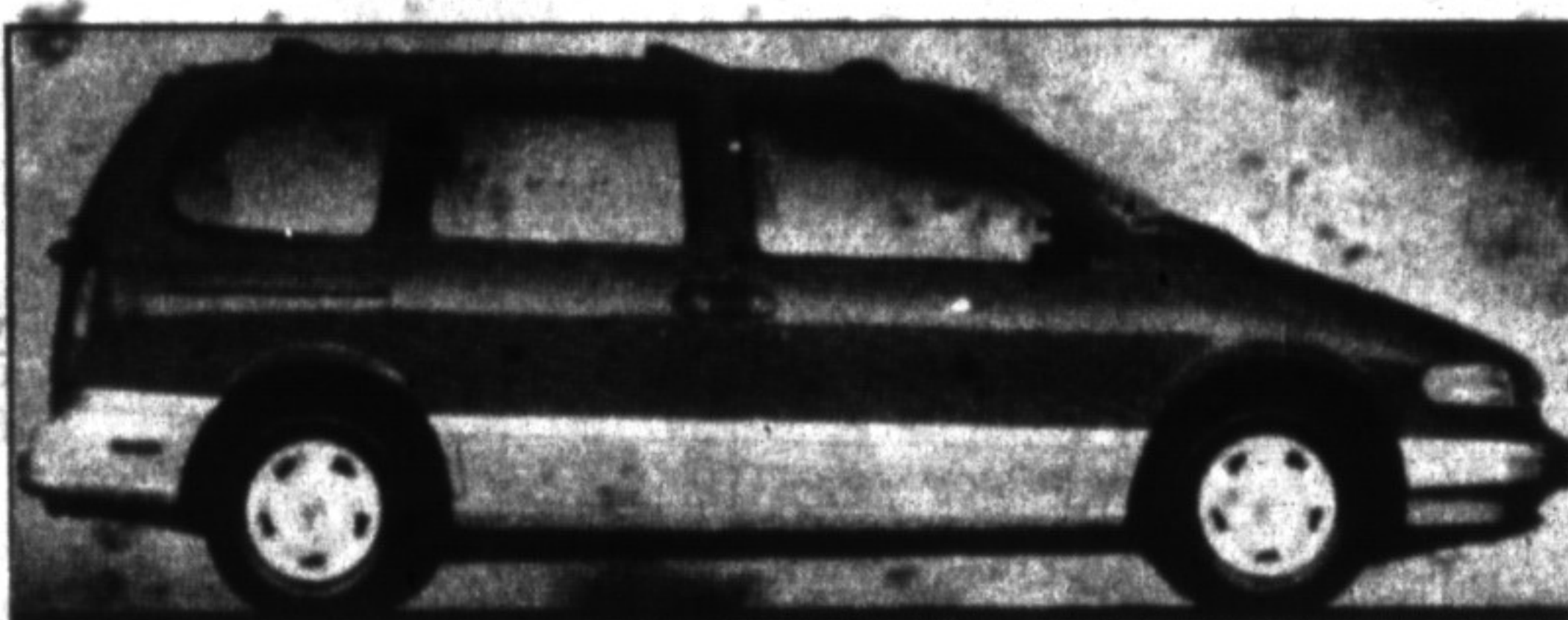
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